
DC Fire & EMS Special Operations: EMS Tactical Operational Medical Support

Note Well: *DC Fire and EMS provides operational medical support for law enforcement tactical operations in the District of Columbia. The goal of units operating at the scene of a hostile incident shall be to provide optimal quality EMS care, while not compromising or interfering with law enforcement operations.*

I. Definitions

1. Hostile Incident
 - A. Any law enforcement operation of a high- risk nature that requires the deployment of specialized tactical teams such as high risk warrants, hostage situations, barricaded subjects, or suicidal subjects.
2. Outer Perimeter
 - A. Area behind police lines considered safe for the general public.
3. Middle Perimeter
 - A. Area considered safe for support personnel including non-tactical team law enforcement and DCFEMS units.
4. Inner Perimeter
 - A. Any area in line of sight of the target location. Controlled by and entry limited only to tactical team personnel.
5. Tactical Medical Officer
 - A. An EMS provider with tactical training assigned to a law enforcement tactical team. **The Tactical Medical Officer is the only EMS provider authorized to operate in the inner perimeter.**

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II. Operations

1. When responding to a hostile incident, all responding units shall respond to the staging location as designated by the Communications Division and/or the DCFEMS Incident Commander (IC).
2. Once units are staged, the ACIC of each EMS unit shall report to the on-scene EMS Supervisor, who reports to the DCFEMS IC. The Tactical Medical Officer shall provide mission specific information to the DCFEMS IC and/or EMS Supervisor for coordination of on-scene units.
3. All on-scene DCFEMS units shall follow DCFEMS Standard Operating Procedures and remain in the middle perimeter unless specifically directed into the inner perimeter by the tactical team commander or the Tactical Medical Officer. **DCFEMS units will only be directed into the inner perimeter once the target location has been completely secured by the tactical team.**
4. The Tactical Medical Officer in cooperation with the DCFEMS IC and EMS Supervisor shall be responsible for the overall health of the tactical team and shall consider the following:
 - A. Environmental conditions.
 - B. Critical incident stress.
 - C. Unique hazards such as animals, booby traps, hazardous materials, etc.
 - D. Landing zones for medical evacuation.
5. The Tactical Medical Officer shall perform triage inside the inner perimeter and direct patient movement to the middle perimeter for treatment and transport. In the event of illness or injury, DCFEMS members shall refer to the appropriate medical or trauma protocol during treatment and transport of the patient(s).